UNITED STATES G[illegible]NT

Memorandum

TO : **Mr. A. H. Belmont**

DATE: **January 8, 1964**

FROM : **Mr. W. C. Sullivan**

SUBJECT: [redacted] b7C

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. J.A.Sizoo
1 - Mr. D.E.Moore
1 - Mr. D.J.Brennan
1 - Mr. R.W.Smith

[redacted]

b1

[redacted] When the true facts concerning his activities are presented, such should be enough, if handled properly, to take him off his pedestal and to reduce him completely in influence so that he will no longer be a security problem and no longer will be deceiving and misleading the Negro people. b7C

When this is done, and it can be and will be done, obviously much confusion will reign, particularly among the Negro people. There will be embarrassment, frustration, confusion, resentment, et cetera. Because of this and the emotional reaction that will set in, it is not unlikely that movements like the Nation of Islam could benefit greatly. Further, other ridiculous developments similar to the Old Father Divine and Daddy Grace organizations may appear. The Negroes will be left without a national leader of sufficiently compelling personality to steer them in the proper direction. This is what could happen, but need not happen if the right kind of a national Negro leader could at this time be gradually developed so as to overshadow Dr. King and be in the position to assume the role of the leadership of the Negro people when King has been completely discredited.

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WCS:djw
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ENCLOSURE

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orandum for Mr. Belmont [redacted] b7C

For some months I have been thinking about this matter. One
y I had an opportunity to explore this from a philosophical and
ciological standpoint with [redacted] whom I have known for
ne years. As I previously reported, [redacted] is a very able fellow,
[redacted] and one on whom I can rely. I
ked [redacted] to give the matter some attention and if he knew any
gro of outstanding intelligence and ability let me know and we would
ve a discussion. [redacted] has submitted to me the name of the above-
ptioned person, [redacted] → b7C + b7D

Enclosed with this memorandum is an outline of [redacted]
iography [redacted] On scanning this biography, it will be seen that
[redacted] does have all the qualifications of the kind of a Negro I have
n mind to advance to positions of national leadership. I won't go into
ll his accomplishments and qualifications in this memorandum, for it
ill only take a minute or two to scan the enclosed biography. b7C

On first blush I know it can be said it is not the concern of the Bureau what happens to the Negroes when Martin Luther King has been discredited. This can be said, but I think it is a very short-sighted view. It is our concern if large numbers of them go into the Nation of Islam and other extremist groups with which we are concerned as an investigative agency. It is our concern if the Communist Party would be able to capitalize upon this confusion. Further, from a positive and constructive standpoint it would be of great advantage to have leading the Negro people a truly brilliant, honorable and loyal Negro who would steer the 19 million Negroes away from communism. I think in a very sound sense this necessarily must be of great interest to us. It would be most helpful to have a man [redacted] leading the Negroes to whom we could go, if necessary, and rely upon in sensitive matters over which this Bureau has jurisdiction. b7C

I want to make it clear at once that I don't propose that the FBI in any way become involved openly as the sponsor of a Negro leader to overshadow Martin Luther King. As far as I am concerned, this is not an issue at all. But I do propose that I be given permission to explore further this entire matter [redacted] and any other person known to both [redacted] and myself who could be helpful. If this thing can be set up properly without the Bureau in any way becoming directly involved, I think it would be not only a great help to the FBI but would be a fine thing for the country at large. While I am not specifying at this moment, there are various ways in which the FBI could give this entire matter b7C b7D

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the proper direction and development. There are highly placed contacts of the FBI who might be very helpful to further such a step. These can be discussed in detail later when I have probed more fully into the possibilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) For the information of the Director.

(2) That approval be given for me to explore this whole matter in greater detail, as set forth above.

WCS.

O.K.
&
See biography outline enclosed
WCS

ADDENDUM (1/9/64), WCS/csh:
[redacted]
b7C

W.C.Sullivan

I am glad to see that "light" has finally, though dismally delayed, come to the Domestic Int. Div. I struggled for months to get over the fact that the communists were taking over the racial movement but our experts here couldn't or wouldn't see it. H.